15 October 2018

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Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East
Fifty-third session
Baku, 19–23 November 2018

Information for participants

Conference venue

The Fifty-third session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East will be held from 19 to 23 November 2018 in the Boulevard Hotel, Baku, Azerbaijan.

Address: Khagani Rustamov Street 4C, Baku AZ-1010 Azerbaijan
Telephone: +994 12 310 0010
Website: www.boulevardhotelbaku.com/en

Coordination

International coordination of the event will be undertaken by the Secretariat to the Governing Bodies of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (SGB/UNODC), Vienna, through:

Ms. Olga Teruel Ampuy
Telephone: +43 1 26060 ext. 5105
Fax: +43 1 26060 5885
Email: olga.teruel@un.org; unodc-sgb@un.org

National coordination of the event will be undertaken by the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The following persons are responsible for coordination and logistics:

Mr. Dilavar Farzaliyev
Telephone: +994 12 4042224/25
Mobile phone: +994 50 3309736
Email: international@customs.gov.az

Mr. Elchin Gulamov
Telephone: +994 12 4042200 (ext.0603)
Mobile phone: +994 55 7178130
Email: elchin.gulamov@customs.gov.az

* Available only in Arabic, English and Russian, which are the working languages of the subsidiary body.

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Registration of participants

Registration of participants will take place at the front area of the Taghiyev Ballroom on Monday, 19 November 2018 from 8.30 a.m.

Participants are requested to fill in the attached registration form (Annex A) and return it to the Secretariat to the Governing Bodies, as soon as possible and not later than 14 November 2018, either by fax: +431 26060 5885, or email: unodc-sgb@un.org or olga.teruel@un.org.

Participants are required to wear their identity passes at all times during the meeting in order to gain admittance to meeting premises and activities.

Inaugural ceremony/opening of the meeting

The opening of the meeting will be held at 10:00 am on Monday, 19 November at the Taghiyev Ballroom I.

Languages

The official languages of the meeting are Arabic, English and Russian. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

Transfers from and to the airport

The Heydar Aliyev International Airport (GYD) is located 20 kilometres northeast of Baku, connected to the city by highway.

The Government of Azerbaijan is making arrangements to provide transport for participants from the airport to the hotels, and from hotels to the conference centre. For this purpose, you may contact:

Mr. Elchin Gulamov
Telephone: +994 12 4042200 (ext.0603)
Mobile phone: +994 557178130
Email: elchin.gulamov@customs.gov.az

Participants may also wish to request an airport pick-up through their respective hotel by providing their full name, arrival date and time, and flight number. Transportation cost from the airport to Baku hotels is around US$ 20.00 per car.

Health care

Medical staff will be available at the meeting venue.

Visa

Participants from the countries which are eligible for e-visa are advised to receive their e-visas via www.evisa.gov.az. List of countries eligible for e-visa is available at https://evisa.gov.az/en/countries.

Participants from the countries which are not eligible for e-visa are kindly requested to contact national coordinators of the event for visa arrangements. List of the visa-free regime applicable countries is available at http://mfa.gov.az/content/189.

Participants may also consult the diplomatic missions of Azerbaijan in regards to visa requirements to enter the country, so that they may carry out the necessary procedures beforehand. Details about visa requirements and issuance procedures are available at http://mfa.gov.az/content/918.

Accommodation

Accommodation is at participant's cost. Every participant is responsible for his/her own hotel booking. Participants are advised that special rates have been negotiated for the proposed hotel below and are kindly requested to reserve accommodation

directly at the hotels of their choice, indicating their participation in the 53rd meeting of the Subcommission.

Organizers have recommended the following hotel

Boulevard Hotel Autograph Collection (5 stars)

Rate/night: US$ 120 (standard room)
Address: Khagani Rustamov Street 4C AZ1010 Baku, Azerbaijan
Telephone: +994 12 310 0009
Email: central.reservation@absheronhotelgroup.com
Website: http://www.boulevardhotelbaku.com
Note: Please note that the price may vary, if applied late.

Participants are encouraged to make the necessary room reservation as early as possible.

Meals

The host country will be providing lunch and coffee breaks to all participants during the event (19–23 November 2018).

Currency

The local currency is the Manat (AZN) and the current exchange rate of 1 USD is approximately 1.70 AZN.

Climate

The temperature in Baku in November ranges from 10°C to 17°C.

Local time

The local standard time is: UTC/GMT +4 hours.

Electrical current

In Azerbaijan, the electric current is 220 volts.

Country code

The country code for Azerbaijan is: (+994) (12 for Baku) (plus a seven-digit number).

Taxes

The hotels charge 18 per cent VAT and city tax for the provision of accommodation.

Gratuities

There is no standard or expected rate for gratuities which are left to the discretion of the individual. Gratuity is appreciated but not mandatory. Tips are not included anywhere.

General information about Azerbaijan

The Republic of Azerbaijan is the largest country in the Caucasus region located at the crossroads of Western Asia and Eastern Europe. It is bounded by the Caspian Sea to the east, Turkey to the south-west, Russia to the north, Georgia to the north-west, Armenia to the west and Iran (Islamic Republic of) to the south. Azerbaijan regained its independence in 1991.

Azerbaijan is a democratic, legal, secular and unitary country. The Head of State is the President, elected for a 5-year term. The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan is His Excellency Ilham Aliyev.

Baku is the capital and the largest city of Azerbaijan, as well as the largest city on the Caspian Sea and of the Caucasus region. The places of interest such as the Old City along with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower were inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000. The city is the scientific, cultural and industrial centre of Azerbaijan.

Sightseeing in Baku

Old City (Icheri Sheher)

Old City or Inner City is the historical core of Baku. In December 2000, the Old City of Baku, including the Palace of the Shirvanshahs and Maiden Tower, became the first location in Azerbaijan to be classified as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

It is widely accepted that the Old City dates at least to the 7th century. During this medieval period of Baku, such monuments as the Synyg Gala Minaret (11th century), the fortress walls and towers (11th–12th centuries), the Maiden Tower, the Multani Caravanserai and Hajji Gayyib bathhouse (15th century), the Palace of the Shirvanshahs (15th–16th centuries), the Bukhara Caravanserai and Gasimbey bathhouse (16th century) were built. It was during this period that Baku started to extend beyond the city walls, and new neighbourhoods emerged. Thus the terms Inner City and Outer City came into use.

The Maiden Tower

The Maiden Tower or also known locally as Giz Galasi located in the Old City, Baku in Azerbaijan is an ancient tower. There are various suppositions and legends about the date of construction and function of the tower. Some of the scientists suppose that the Tower was built in two different periods. According to this supposition, the lower part of the tower with smooth walls up to 12 meters is older and dates back to the VIII–VII centuries BC. The upper part surrounded with a stone stripe is supposed to be built later. It is one of the most noted landmarks and Azerbaijan's most distinctive national emblems, and is thus featured on Azerbaijani currency notes and other official letter heads.

The Maiden Tower houses a museum, which presents the story of historic evolution of the Baku city. The view from the roof takes in the alleys and minarets of the Old City, the Baku Boulevard and a wide vista of the Baku Bay.

Shirvanshahs Palace

Palace of the Shirvanshahs is the biggest monument of the Shirvan-Absheron branch of the Azerbaijan architecture, situated in the Inner City of Baku. In the 15th century the Shirvanshah dynasty, under Ibrahim I of Shirvan, transferred his country's capital from Shemakha to Baku following a devastating earthquake, and where he committed himself to the construction of the "palace".

The complex contains the main building of the palace, Divanhane, the burial-vaults, the shah's mosque with a minaret, Seyid Yahya Bakuvi's mausoleum, a portal in the east-Murad's gate, a reservoir and the remnants of the bathhouse.

Heydar Aliyev Centre

The Heydar Aliyev Cultural Centre is a 619,000-square-foot building complex in Baku, Azerbaijan designed by Iraqi-British architect Zaha Hadid and noted for its distinctive architecture and flowing, curved style that eschews sharp angles. The centre is named after the National Leader of Azerbaijani People, Heydar Aliyev, the leader of Soviet-era Azerbaijan from 1969 to 1982, and president of Azerbaijan from October 1993 to October 2003.

The Centre houses a conference hall, a gallery hall and a museum. The project is intended to play an integral role in the intellectual life of the city. Located close to the city centre, the site plays a pivotal role in the redevelopment of Baku.

The Heydar Aliyev Centre represents a fluid form which emerges by the folding of the landscape's natural topography and by the wrapping of individual functions of the Centre. All functions of the Centre, together with entrances, are represented by folds in a single continuous surface. This fluid form gives an opportunity to connect the various cultural spaces whilst at the same time, providing each element of the Centre with its own identity and privacy. As it folds inside, the skin erodes away to become an element of the interior landscape of the Centre.

An internationally recognized architectural work, the building of the Heydar Aliyev Centre has become a signature landmark of modern Baku due to its innovative and cutting-edge design. The building was nominated for awards ir 2013 at both the World Architecture Festival and the biennial Inside Festival.

International Mugam Center of Azerbaijan

International Mugam Center of Azerbaijan is the centre of Azerbaijani arts and music aimed to promote, preserve and popularize specific genre of Azerbaijani music Mugam. It is located in Baku Boulevard, downtown Baku.

The International Mugham Center was built in order to widely promote in the world the Azerbaijani mugham, proclaimed by UNESCO as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

The 7,500 square metre building reminds of the parts of tar, an ancient musical instrument of Azerbaijan. The 3-storey building includes a 350-seat concert hall, club, classrooms, recording studio, 80-seat restaurant "Ud". Over 2,000 glasses of different sizes were used in construction.

At the International Mugham Center young performers learn the refinements of the art of mugham, an important branch of the Azerbaijani music culture. Concerts of eminent mugham masters, mugham evenings, international conferences and festivals are organized in the Center.

Baku Crystal Hall

Baku Crystal Hall is an indoor arena in Baku, Azerbaijan. Located on the coast of Baku near National Flag Square, it was built in order to host the Eurovision Song Contest 2012.

Annex A

Fifty-third session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East

Baku, 19–23 November 2018

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME	
MEMBER STATE/ORGANIZATION	
RANK/TITLE/POSITION	
INSTITUTION	
ADDRESS	
CITY, COUNTRY	
TELEPHONE	
EMAIL	
DATE AND TIME OF ARRIVAL	
AIRLINE/FLIGHT NUMBER	
DATE AND TIME OF DEPARTURE	
AIRLINE/FLIGHT NUMBER	
HOTEL	

Please, send this form to UNODC:

Ms. Olga Teruel Ampuy Fax:+43-1-26060-5885
Email: olga.teruel@un.org and unodc-sgb@un.org